

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before the first line of the specification please insert the sentence:

--This is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 09/506,271, filed February 17, 2000.--.

Page 1, first full paragraph (lines 5-6), amend the paragraph as follows:

--This application is related to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/912,872 filed August 19, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,115,797, the subject matter of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

Pages 7-8, the paragraph bridging these pages from page 7, line 19 to page 8, line 1, amend the paragraph as follows:

--The open system 2 is a server apparatus including: a central processing unit (CPU) 22; a main memory 21; and communication units (I/O channels) 23, 24 for controlling data transfers with other data processing devices. The I/O channel 23 and the I/O channel 13 are variable-length access interfaces[ [?]]. The mainframe 1 and the open system 2 are connected by the I/O channel 16 and the I/O channel 24 via a communication line 34. The I/O channel 23 includes a fixed-

length access interface and is connected to the external storage apparatus 4 via a communication line 32. The I/O channel 23 is also connected to an external storage apparatus 5 via a communication line 33.--